(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether more than 1000 Malaysians enter India using this stolen visa stickers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to trace out those persons who entered India illegally using those stolen visa stickers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Loss of a number of visa stickers from the Indian Mission in Kuala Lumpur and their misuse by certain travel agents or their employees for travel of their clients of India, has been detected. Particulars of the missing visa stickers were provided to the Indian Immigration Authorities with the request to look out for such visa holders. The Immigration Authorities issued look out circulars in respect of the same. The Indian Mission in Kuala Lumpur also informed the Malaysian authorities, various airlines and the general public (through press announcements) regarding the lost stickers, advising holders of such visas against using the same to travel to India.

Transferring of money to National Westminister Bank

1157. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Finance Minister of erstwhile Hyderabad Nizam transferred one million pounds to National Westminister Bank, London, in September, 1948, and then later the amount has been transferred to the account of Pakistan High Commissioner in the same bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the amount has gone up now to thirty million pounds; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to bring back the money to India?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) On 20th September 1948 an amount of over one million Pounds Sterling (1,007,940 Pound Sterling and 9 Shillings) maintained in the name of the Nizam of Hyderabad's Government in National Westminister Bank, London, was transferred into an account in the name of the then High Commissioner of Pakistan in London. The transfer was without the consent of the Nizam's Government. The fund stood at Pound sterling 31,966,253.77 (Pound Sterling thirty one Million nine hundred sixty six thousand two hundred and fifty three and Shillings seventy seven only) in January 2008 and has been re-deposited.

(d) From 1960 onwards, the issue has been discussed at various levels with Pakistan. India and Pakistan are making efforts to reach an out-of-court settlement with the heirs of the Nizam of Hyderabd.

Immigration laws of UK

1158. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:
SHRI SHANTARAMLAXMAN NAIK:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the United Kingdom has amended its immigration laws and has made them harsher as regards the entry/stay of non-European Union Immigrants;

(b) whether it is also a fact that thousands of Indians have filed petitions in the courts of law of Britain against the new immigration laws;

(c) whether Government has taken up the issue with the UK Government;

(d) the changes that the Indian immigrants have challenged and the grounds of their challenged; and

(e) the details of the representations, if any, made by such immigrants to Government or to the offices of the High Commission in UK?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The UK has amended its immigration laws and has launched a points-based system (PBS) in 2008 to streamline more than 80 existing routes of entry into five broad categories for the non-European union workers. Each of the 5 tiers will have different conditions, entitlements and entry clearance checks. As a first stage, Tier-I of PBS for highly skilled workers has replaced the erstwhile Highly Skilled Migrant Programme (HSMP) and has been implemented in India from 1st April 2008. Tier 2 for skilled workers has been implemented from November 27, 2008. Other tiers of the PBS will be implemented by spring 2009.

(b) The Government has no knowledge of Indians having filed petitions in UK courts of law against the new Points-Based System introduced in 2008.

(c) We have urged in our bilateral discussions that the new system should not pose hurdles for Indian nationals to enter or stay in the UK.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No such representation either to the Government or to the offices of the High Commission in UK has been received against the new points-based system of Immigration.

Achievements in Nuclear deal

†1159. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.